

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDE-00 CEQ-01 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
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IO-13 L-03 NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02
SP-02 PA-01 DOE-11 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 MCE-00
DOEE-00 SSO-00 EB-08 /158 W
-----042720 161421Z /42

P 161340Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6043
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 02411

CW MESSAGE NO. 31

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, SEVENTH
ROUND: SUMMARY OF DEVELOPMENTS TO DATE

1. SUMMARY: AS OF FEBRUARY 13, THE ACTIVITY LEVEL OF THE SEVENTH ROUND OF THE US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS WAS REDUCED SO EXPERTS WOULD RETURN TO CAPITALS FOR CONSULTATIONS. SO FAR THE ROUND HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO DETAILED EXPLORATION OF THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES. NO FURTHER DRAFTING HAS BEEN UNDERTAKEN SO FAR. WHILE THE SOVIETS HAVE MOVED CLOSER TO THE U.S. POSITION ON SOME POINTS, THEY HAVE MOVED AWAY IN SEVERAL AREAS WHICH WE PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED WERE CLOSE TO BEING RESOLVED. ALL IN ALL, ONLY MODEST PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS ROUND IN RESOLVING MAJOR ISSUES. THE TONE OF THE MEETINGS, HOW-
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EVER, CONTINUES TO BE WORKMANLIKE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SEVENTH ROUND OF US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN 10 JANUARY 1978. ELEVEN PLENARY AND SEVEN DRAFTING GROUP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD TO DATE. AS OF 13 FEBRUARY 1978 THE ACTIVITY LEVEL WAS REDUCED SO EXPERTS COULD RETURN TO CAPITALS FOR CONSULTATIONS. MEETINGS

OF BOTH THE PLENARY AND DRAFTING GROUPS WILL CONTINUE IN THE INTERIM. (THE PERIOD OF REDUCED ACTIVITY WAS REQUESTED BY THE SOVIETS, WHO INDICATED THAT THEY HAD "RUN OUT OF MATERIAL." JUDGING FROM THE COMMENTS OF THE SOVIET EXPERTS, THE SOVIET DELEGATION HAD NOT EXPECTED THE ROUND TO RUN PAST THE END OF JANUARY.) THE SEVENTH ROUND IS EXPECTED TO RESUME ON 29 MARCH.

3. SO FAR THE ROUND HAS BEEN DEVOTED TO EXPLORATION OF THE POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES. NO DRAFTING HAS YET BEEN UNDERTAKEN.

- A. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ROUND THE SOVIETS PRESENTED A "SUPPLEMENTED" DRAFT CONVENTION CONTAINING TWENTY-FOUR ARTICLES AND TWO ANNEXES. IN EFFECT, THIS REPRESENTS AN EXPANSION OF THEIR PREVIOUS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES INTO A FULLY ELABORATED DRAFT CONVENTION.

- B. AT THE OUTSET THE U.S. DEL PUT FORTH DETAILED PROPOSALS FOR DEALING WITH "IMPORTANT" PRECURSORS, "IMPORTANT" LETHAL AND OTHER HIGHLY TOXIC CHEMICALS, AND RIOT CONTROL CHEMICALS. IN ADDITION, IT PRESENTED THE REVISED U.S. POSITION ON CHALLENGE INSPECTION (I.E., TO BE REQUESTED BY A STATE PARTY RATHER THAN BY THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE).

- C. THE DRAFTING GROUP SESSIONS HAVE BEEN DEVOTED TO CONFIDENTIAL

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EXTENSIVE QUESTION-AND-ANSWER EXCHANGES, AS EACH SIDE ATTEMPTED TO CLARIFY THE DETAILS OF THE OTHERS POSITION. (IN SEVERAL CASES, THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR OWN PROPOSALS OR THE ACCEPTABILITY OF U.S. SUGGESTIONS.)

4. GENERALLY SPEAKING, DURING THIS ROUND THERE HAS BEEN RELATIVELY LITTLE MOVEMENT TOWARD RESOLVING KEY ISSUES.

- A. ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, THE SOVIETS:

- (1) HAVE DROPPED SOME TERMS THE U.S. HAD OBJECTED TO (E.G., SINGLE-PURPOSE, DUAL-PURPOSE, TERATOGEN, CARCINOGEN), BUT HAVE RETAINED OTHERS (E.G., CHEMICAL AGENT);

- (2) HAVE AGREED TO PUT PRECURSORS UNDER THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION AND HAVE ACCEPTED, IN PRINCIPLE, THE U.S. PROPOSAL FOR A LIST OF "IMPORTANT" PRECURSORS TO SERVE AS A FOCUS FOR VERIFICATION EFFORTS.

- (3) MAY BE CLOSE TO AGREEING TO ACCOMMODATE THE

U.S. INTEREST IN PROTECTING THE USES OF RIOT CONTROL

CHEMICALS SPECIFIED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 11850;

- (4) ARE APPARENTLY WILLING TO SPECIFY IN THE
CONVENTION THE RIGHTS AND FUNCTIONS OF VERIFICATION
PERSONNEL CARRYING OUT A CHALLENGE ON-SITE INSPECTION;

- (5) HAVE AGREED TO SEVERAL OTHER POINTS PRO-
POSED BY THE U.S. (E.G., DECLARATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH
DESTRUCTION ACTIVITIES; INCLUSION OF TOXIC CHEMICALS OF
BIOLOGICAL ORIGIN; PROHIBITION OF NEW PRODUCTION FACIL-
ITIES; DECLARATION OF TYPES AND QUANTITIES OF HIGHLY
TOXIC COMMERCIAL CHEMICALS PRODUCED BUT THEY ALSO TAKE

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6044

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 02411

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THE POSITION THAT EACH PARTY WILL DETERMINE THE FORM AND
CONTENT OF ITS OWN DECLARATIONS.)

- B. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, THE SOVIETS:

- (1) HAVE DROPPED THE TOXICITY THRESHOLD SEPARAT-
ING SUPER-TOXIC LETHAL CHEMICALS FROM OTHER CHEMICALS.
THIS GREATLY COMPLICATES OUR EFFORT TO APPLY MORE
STRINGENT VERIFICATION ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPER-TOXIC
CHEMICALS (E.G., NERVE GAS) THAN TO LESS TOXIC COMMERCIAL

CHEMICALS (E.G., HYDROGEN CYANIDE, PHOSGENE);

- (2) HAVE PUT FORWARD POSITIONS WHICH ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. IN SEVERAL AREAS WHERE WE PREVIOUSLY BELIEVED THE TWO SIDES WERE FAIRLY CLOSE:

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- -- QUANTITIES OF OTHERWISE PROHIBITED CHEMICALS TO BE PRODUCED OR DIVERTED FOR NONHOSTILE MILITARY PURPOSES. WE HAD BELIEVED THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT A LIMIT SHOULD BE SPECIFIED. NOW THE SOVIETS WOULD ALLOW EACH STATE PARTY TO PRODUCE WHATEVER IT DETERMINES IT NEEDS.

- -- RETENTION OF CHEMICAL MUNITIONS. WE HAD BELIEVED THAT BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT EQUIPMENT TO BE USED FOR PROTECTIVE TRAINING SHOULD NOT BE SUITABLE FOR OFFENSIVE PURPOSES. THE SOVIETS NOW WOULD ALLOW THE RETENTION, IN QUANTITIES TO BE DETERMINED BY EACH STATE ITSELF, OF CHEMICAL MUNITIONS FOR PROTECTIVE TRAINING.

- -- DECLARATION OF FACILITIES FOR PRODUCTION OF THE MEANS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE. WE HAD BELIEVED THAT BOTH SIDES SHARED THE VIEW THAT PRESENT AND FORMER FACILITIES WOULD BE DECLARED. THE SOVIETS NOW WOULD DECLARE ONLY EXISTING "CAPABILITIES," (I.E., ABILITY TO PRODUCE), AND REJECT DECLARATION OF INDIVIDUAL FACILITIES.

5. THE TONE OF BOTH THE PLENARY AND DRAFTING GROUP MEETINGS HAS CONTINUED TO BE FRIENDLY AND WORKMANLIKE.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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